



# LEADER

"Leader's Training Course: Only the Beginning"

Vol. XXIX, No. 3

Eastern Region  
Ft. Knox, Ky.

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## Rope Burn ...

Cadets conquer fears  
on rappel tower,  
turn to pages 4-5

## Guidon symbolic to cadets

BY GINA VAILE  
Assistant editor

It's only the beginning ... the time when a cadet stares into the world of the United States Army. It begins with a ceremony that defines the history and the values the Army instills in its soldiers and future leaders.

Cadets from across the US are on post until late July to take part in the Army ROTC Leaders Training Course – a summer program that trains future U.S. Army leaders who have not completed their first two years of military science at their respective college. They will undergo physical and mental demands and challenges while completing training exercises in the field and in the classroom. Most importantly, the cadets will learn the seven Army values and how to apply them to daily living.

For cadets in the Alpha and Charlie-1 companies of the LTC, the Guidon Ceremony, held June 6 and June 9 respectively, marked the start of their quest to become future lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

"It's recognition that they (the cadets) are forming a cohesive unit," said Col. Scott Armbrister. "It is the symbolic transfer of the 46<sup>th</sup> from basic training to ROTC cadet training."

The guidon is a company identification flag that is present at all unit formations unless directed by the commander. It represents the history, present and future of the company.

"It's very good for the cadets to experience early on the pomp and



circumstance; for them to feel part of an organization and part of belonging," Armbrister said.

During the ceremony, cadets also placed their Army Values ID tags on the "Discover Gold" boards for their platoons. Representing the oath of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage, the tags will remain on the boards until the successful completion of the Leadership Training Course. At that time, the cadets will receive them again as a rite of passage.

"It is our oath," said Cadet Commander Carmen Benson, 2/A/1-46, of Grambling State University. "Tonight we received our seven Army values that we will live by day in and day out."

Benson said any ceremony in the Army  
See CEREMONY, 2



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

Megan Noonchester, 3/C/1-46 of Washington State University was cadet commander for the Guidon Ceremony.

## Future leaders check in for camp

BY LINDSAY SAINLAR  
Staff writer

As drill sergeants ordered them to take off their flip flops and dress shoes and replace them with running shoes and Army physical training gear, college students from across the United States soon realized they were no longer abiding by their own agendas, but that of the U.S. Army.

Approximately six hundred of the 1,200 cadets expected to arrive in Fort Knox have piled out of vans and buses onto Kentucky soil to participate in the Leader's Training Course.

The three remaining companies will be arriving sporadically throughout the next week.

"I've always wanted to be in the Military," said Tamica Brock, 2/E/1-46, University of Missouri-Rolla.

Before Brock or any cadet can participate in LTC, they must survive their first mission [in-processing, the registration portion of LTC.

Capt. Ramona Bellard said there are three parts to in-processing: arrival, reception and processing.

She said that at this point, most cadets are excited and wondering if they can handle



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

Cadet Beth Kurjanowicz, 1/A/1-46 of Boston University lines up for formation during in-processing.

LTC.

During reception, the cadets enjoyed complimentary breakfast items such as orange juice and doughnuts while they received platoon and squad assignments, filled out safe arrival post cards, graduation invitations and change of address forms.

After being briefed on various camp standards such as the no alcohol policy and females were instructed how to wear their hair in a proper ponytail, cadets were issued the official physical training gear.

Soon after changing into their PT uniforms,  
See LTC, 3

## Outside The Wire

FORT KNOX — An Article-32 hearing, the military equivalent to a grand jury, for accused murderer Sgt. Hansan Akbar is under way. Akbar is accused of two specification of premeditated murder and three specifications of attempted murder in connection with the grenade attack on U.S. soldiers at Camp Pennsylvania, Kuwait, on March 22.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vowed to press Israel's assault on Hamas, and the militant Islamic group rebuffed popular for a truce with Israel. With the peace effort stumbling, Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas went to the Gaza Strip for desperate push to persuade militants to lay down their arms.

CHICAGO — You might have missed this ... U.S. Open golf champion Jim Furk was approached by a flower-bearing topless woman Sunday as he was about to tap in a putt on the 11th green. Furuk's response: "I love my wife, and I just kind of wanted to say 'I don't want the flower.'"

HOLLYWOOD — Cartoon fish still have audiences hooked. The undersea adventure "Finding Nemo" regained the top spot at the weekend box office with a catch of \$29.9 million.

The fish tale, which opened at No. 1 before falling to second place two weeks ago, has grossed \$192.3 million in the last 17 days of release.

WIMBLEDON — Defending champions Lleyton Hewitt and Serena Williams have been seeded No. 1 for the tennis championship.

Anna Kournikova has pulled out of Wimbledon because of a back injury. Monica Seles has also pulled out citing a foot injury.

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# Future Leaders... *'Discover Gold'*

By Col. Paul L. Willis  
Leader's Training Course Commander



As the saying goes, "first impressions are everything." From my observations so far, I am extremely impressed with the performance of each and every one of you thus far. **HOOAH!**

Your approach to the challenges we have placed before you here at the Leader's Training Course have been met with high levels of energy and enthusiasm which I know has enabled many of you to work towards achieving those personal goals which you have set for yourselves. To the newest arrivals to the Leader's Training Course, I challenge you to maintain the same level of energy and enthusiasm your fellow classmates have. I guarantee that your days and nights here at Fort Knox and the Leader's Training Course will be exciting, challenging and fun.

In the Welcome Issue of this newspaper, I stated that I would use this forum as an opportunity to discuss leadership and officership. This week I will touch upon leadership.

**Leadership.** It is what this course is all about. From the beginning, we have, and will, place each of you in various leadership positions. Undoubtedly, many of you felt uncomfortable performing in these leadership positions. This is natural, as this is your first real experience with the many responsibilities that are associated with being a squad or platoon leader. You must realize, and understand, that this is the initial step for everyone who has ever trained to become a leader in the Army.

The Army defines leadership as "a process by which a soldier influences others to accomplish a mission." To do so, you must be able to communicate, motivate, and respect those whom you are leading.

**Communication:** As a leader you must

learn to communicate effectively to accomplish any given mission. I am sure you now have a better understanding of how critical it is to communicate your intent during your time in a leadership position. It is vital that your intent as the leader is clearly understood so that in the event you are unable to complete the mission it is clear in the minds of your platoon members what the goals and objectives were, and the mission can continue uninterrupted.

**Motivation:** You, as a leader, must possess self-motivation. If you are passionate about the mission, and exude enthusiasm, then you will inspire others to follow. Even under the most extreme of conditions, all leaders must have the strength and self-motivation necessary to motivate their soldiers and accomplish the mission.

**Respect:** During my in-brief, I talked about respect; how we would respect you and what we expected in return. As a leader you must treat your subordinates in the same manner in which you expect to be treated...with dignity and respect. You must establish a mutual bond of trust and respect. If your subordinates trust and respect you, and know that you have that same trust and respect in their abilities, they will be loyal and perform above your expectations. Remember, a true leader will earn the respect and admiration of their subordinate ... it can't be something that you demand because of the rank you wear, or the leadership position you are in.

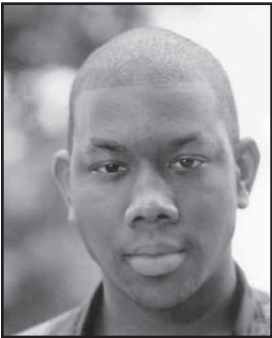
I leave you with this thought: We've all heard the phrase, "he is a born leader." In reality, very few people are born with the necessary skills to lead. The Leader's Training Course is your opportunity to acquire those tools necessary to become an effective leader, an Army officer, and the future of our country.

# Cadet Talk

The LTC question of the week ...

Leader staff writer Stephanie Toone asked cadets:

## "What do you think you'll miss most about home?"



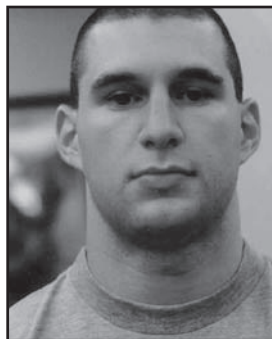
"I think I'll miss waking up knowing **exactly** what to expect. Things like **chores** you think you wouldn't miss. Once you're removed from that, you **miss** that routine."

**Corey Thomas**  
**Bowie State University**  
**1/C/1-46**



"I guess I'll miss my **family**. I'll miss my **dog** a lot."

**Megan Lindstadt**  
**Fordham University**  
**1/A/1-46**



"I'll miss getting to catch up with **everybody** that's at home, because I **left** when they came back from school."

**Justin Heinzen**  
**Saint Norbert College**  
**4/C/1-46**

Photos by Michele Lohman/Leader

# Ceremony teaches history, honor of the 1-46 Infantry training division at Knox

From page one

has significant meaning that soldiers and cadets should embrace.

"We are able to practice drill and ceremony but it's important because we are giving honor to those who have died for this country and who have served this country in this division, and all divisions," Benson said.

In his remarks, Capt. Hector Roman told the cadets of Charlie Company they were participating in a life changing ceremony.

"You pledge to live by the Army

values," he said. "These seven values are more than just words – they are the way you will live your life."

As the cadets stood where hundreds of other cadets stood before, Roman reminded them they too would one day lead the sons and daughters of America, just as hundreds of lieutenants are currently serving in Iraq and other foreign places.

He encouraged the cadets to accept the challenges handed to them at LTC this summer and maintain a learning attitude

for the course.

"Don't give up and work together as a team," he advised.

The 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry was established in May, 1917 as part of the general mobilization for World War I. The unit was inactivated in November, 1921 and was reactivated as the 46<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry, 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division in 1941.

The 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry participated in the Normandy invasion and the liberation of France. The 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division liberated the Grand Duchy of Luxem-

bourg and also had the distinction of being the first American unit to reach German soil.

After WWI, the 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry returned to the States and was deactivated in October, 1945. It has since been activated and deactivated several times.

The basic training battalions of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armor Training Brigade were redesignated the 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry in 1987, and it is here at Ft. Knox that the nation's future leaders are trained and prepared to defend the freedom of Americans.

## Leader

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# ROTC Command realigns for future

BY NICHOLAS STOUT  
Staff writer

In an effort to better reflect the Army of today, US Army Cadet Command has restructured its geographic alignment.

Effective June 1, 2003, the command adopted an East-West concept, which closed the regional command post at Fort Bragg, NC and renamed the regional command at Fort Knox and Fort Lewis, WA.

Fort Knox will be the home of the Eastern Region, which will oversee Army ROTC programs in 135 colleges and universities east of the Mississippi River down across the bottom of Tennessee continuing down the western side of Georgia and Florida. Fort Lewis, WA will be the headquarters for the Western Region that will oversee programs in the rest of the country.

Col. Paul L. Willis, commander of the Eastern Region, said the change in alignment is simply a matter of efficiency.

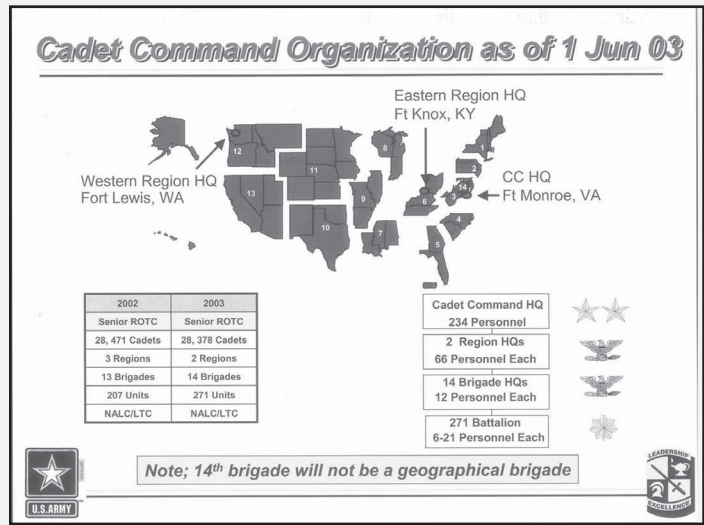
"As the Army has gotten smaller the requirement to bring in more officers has decreased as well," Willis said. "We are aligning ourselves with the new requirements of the smaller Army that exists today."

Maj. Eric Angeli, special project officer for the re-alignment, said despite the signmificant change in regional command, the change won't have any effect on cadets.

"The change will be transparent as far as cadets are concerned," Angeli said. "This is just a more efficient and effective way of controlling subordinate units within Cadet Command.

In the US, there are 28,378 cadets in hundreds of colleges, universities and military academies. The Eastern Region is in command of 272 universities and colleges.

## Command Changes



Graphic /Cadet Command

Effective June 1, the Army reconstructed the geographic makeup of Cadet Command. Eastern Region will be headquartered at Ft. Knox and Ft. Lewis, Wa. will be the home of the Western Region headquarters. Headquarters Cadet Command is still located at Ft. Monroe, Va.

# D&C important to cadet training

BY STEPHANIE TOONE  
Staff writer

Attention!  
About Face!  
Order Arms!

The calls are ringing in the heads of the cadets at the Leader's Training Course during chow and in their sleep. The all-important Drill and Ceremony gives each cadet the opportunity to learn military calls, movements and voice inflections. Though the cadets in Charlie Company have been practicing since day one of LTC, they still have a lot to learn.

Sergeant First Class Jerry Larson, a drill sergeant for Charlie Company, said Drill and Ceremony is very important to the cadets and the Army.

"It keeps everyone in uniformity. It's a quick, easy way to get people to do what you want without explaining details," Larson said.

He said that during the three-hour course the cadets are taught to do voice inflections, positions of attention, facial movements and rest positions at the halt. The cadets begin Drill and Ceremony spinning in circles attempting to do about face. Larson said within a week they have a good idea of the commands and movements.

"I see the same mistakes with cadets as I do with lieutenants especially with right flank and left flank, they go every direction," Larson said.

Right and left flanks are not easy

steps, because all the cadets must turn the same way at the same time. In those situations, Larson said that Drill and Ceremony brings order.

"If we didn't have D&C, it would be anarchy and chaos. With it, everything is easy to control and manage," Larson said. Drill and Ceremony brings order for the drill sergeants, but there are also benefits for the cadets.

Cadet Mark Ingleton, 3/C/1-46, Winston Salem State University, said Drill and Ceremony will help him in his Army ROTC battalion at his university.

"It'll help me be a better cadet and to know what I'm talking about when I go in front of my peers back at ROTC," Ingleton said.

He said Drill and Ceremony is important for learning the proper way to march and following Army regulations. He said that the drill sergeants were nice and helpful. Even with help from the drill sergeants, Ingleton said he it was hard learn column right and column left.

As for Cadet Brian Miller, 4/C/1-46, University of Texas Arlington, he said the right and left flank movements were tough to get down. Though hard, steps like right and left flank help platoons gain organization and teamwork, he said.

Miller added his favorite part about Drill and Ceremony is the cadence.

"Cadence is a tune or a motto that the drill sergeant sounds off with and when they say it we return and say either what they said or something that accompanies it. It kind of makes the walk faster and makes marching a little more fun," Miller said.



Michelle Lohman/Leader

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Fortney assists Michael Erdman, 3/A/1-46 of St. Bonaventure University during Drill and Ceremony.

Cadences and good-humored drill sergeants make the transition from leisurely strolling civilians to high-steeping cadets a little smoother. Beyond learning the movements, cadets learn the importance of discipline and teamwork from Drill and Ceremony. Though it may take time to learn every step, Larson said that cadets can master Drill and Ceremony.

"Through motivation, practice and a little bit of discipline they'll have it down by the time they leave," Larson said.

## LTC at Knox expects 1,200; in-process first for cadets

From page one

the cadets verified several documents and data sent from their schools. Height and weight was recorded after the cadets were photographed for their ID and flight coordination's were made. Pre-Health screenings were also administered.

After the paperwork was done, the cadets met with their drill sergeants for the first time.

Dustin Welin, 1/A/1-46, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, said his father, who fought in the Vietnam War, gave him special instructions about how to handle his drill sergeant by telling him to "shut up and do as they say."

Welin said he's participating in LTC to get in shape and acquire more knowledge about the Army to decide if this is the life he wants to live before contracting.

Many cadets are participating in LTC as an opportunity to get a better idea of what to expect from the Army.

Beth Kurjanowicz, 1/A/1-46, Boston University, said if she enjoys this experience, she will pursue her dream of joining the Military Intelligence branch and reach her goal of jumping out of planes.

Kurjanowicz said her friends told her they didn't expect her to survive the first week.

Determined to prove them wrong, she told them, "I'm not going home till it's done."

One the second day of in-processing, cadets prepared to collect their initial pay, meet with a chaplain and complete any initial paperwork that wasn't processed during Day 1.

Later in the day, medical personnel gave physicals to those who hadn't received one before entering camp and cadets received Battle Dress Uniforms, an exciting moment for some cadets.

"It's something about the pride when you put on the uniform," Brock said. "It makes you feel like you're giving something back to your country."





Michelle Lohmann/Leader



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

**Top:** A cadet prepares to go down the 37-foot rappel tower.  
**Above:** Sandy Wilson, 4/A/1-46 listens to instructions while she belays.



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

Tracie White, 4/A/1-46 of Alcorn State University, lowers herself off the 37-foot rappelling wall.



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

The first challenge for cadets attending LTC is to rappel from the three walls of the 37-foot rappel tower. Cadets begin on the 19-foot slanted wall, move to the 37-foot wall and then let loose on the 37-foot skid, simulating a jump from a helicopter.



# RAPPEL TOWER

*'Confidence, Courage, Leadership, & Teamwork'*



Melanie Blanding/Leader

Cadet Dori Booth, 4/A/1-46, from Eastern Kentucky University said she went rappelling regularly with friends before coming to LTC so she wouldn't be scared to rappel off the tower.



Melanie Blanding/Leader

Cadet Darren Rowe, 4/A/1-46 from the University of Texas at Arlington, said this was the first time he has rappelled. "It was really exciting. I want to go into Airborne Infantry. LTC has strengthened my decision to stay in the military."

## Swinging into action

*Cadets begin training at tower*

BY NICHOLAS STOUT  
Staff writer

Carlos Trujillo of University of Texas-El Paso, wouldn't have wanted to spend his 20th birthday any other way than he did on June 4.

On his day of celebration, Trujillo and fellow cadets of Alpha Company swung into action on the rappelling tower, the first real challenge of the Leader's Training Course.

"It's awesome," Trujillo, 3/A/1-46, said. "There is nothing else I would rather be doing on this day."

After three days of administrative tasks, the cadets were eager to get the training started. Trujillo along with 221 of his fellow cadets were presented with the tasks of learning to take a 10-foot rope and make their own safety harnesses for the training before getting on the rappelling tower and completing three trips to the ground while dangling from a rope 37 feet in the air.

"It's a lot of fun now that we have begun," said Dori Booth, 4/A/1-46, from Eastern Kentucky University. "When you get down the wall you just want to get back up there and do it again."

Though many cadets have rappelled before, the size of the tower and the different jumps were new to everyone. The jumps include a 19-foot slant, which

helps explain the basics of rappelling and prepares cadets for the vertical wall and the helicopter skid which simulates rappelling from the side of a helicopter.

"It's pretty fun," said Lindsay Wargo, 4/A/1-46, from Gannon University. "I was really nervous until I got out there, then it was great."

The purpose of the rappelling tower is to mix a little fun with hard training and make the cadets confident in themselves as the course moves on.

"This is one of those things that cadets can reach back to when they are faced with another hardship of

camp," said 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Gisela Mendonca, the primary briefer for the rappel committee. "Rappelling is a confidence builder and cadets can look back and think if they can do that they can do anything."

With the hard training and good fun, there are valuable lessons to be learned as the cadets make their way towards course completion.

"What we are doing here is developing confidence, courage, leadership skills and teamwork," said Lt. Col. Elliott Cunningham III, the rappel committee chief. "These are lessons that carry over to an officer's task as platoon leader on active duty."

After completing the training on the tower for the day, cadets were pumped to move on with their training.

"It was good – and this is only the beginning," Cunningham said.





# Nurse Grads: ROTC provides advantages

BY STEPHANIE TOONE  
Staff writer

Second Lieutenants Kirk Giles, Jameilya Polk and Francheska Huertas are graduates from colleges in the state of Florida and are experiencing their first military assignment at the Army ROTC Leader's Training Course (LTC).

All three credit the training they received in Army ROTC to their success as commissioned officers as well as their success as nursing students.

"ROTC made me disciplined to go through school and gave me a chance to experience real Army life," Giles said.

Giles, a Florida A&M University graduate from San Diego, Calif., started his Army career as an enlisted soldier, but decided he needed to take a different path.

"I wanted to get an education," Giles said. The Army awarded him a Green to Gold (enlisted to officer) Scholarship. From there, he began working on his Nursing Degree.

After graduating last December and passing the Nursing Licensing Exam, Giles was able to work as a graduate nurse at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami until reporting to Fort Knox. At LTC, he is a part of the Aid Medic Clinic. Giles said that the nurses help get sick cadets to the doctor and assist with in processing.

Polk, a graduate of Florida A&M, had an ironic twist that almost kept her from participating in Army ROTC. The Gulf Port, Miss. native suffered from anemia and did not start ROTC until her sophomore year after changing her diet.

Setting health problems aside, Polk continued through ROTC, which paid for her schooling – and soon she realized other benefits the Army provides.

"There are so many advantages rather than civilian life...like moving around and meeting new people," Polk said.

With those benefits in mind, she still was not



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

Second Lieutenants Francheska Huertas, Jameilya Polk and Kirk Giles all credit their ROTC experiences to their current success. All work with the Aid Medic Clinic.

sure if ROTC was for her.

"I had to ask myself 'Is this something I really want to do?' Then I realized, Army and nursing are something I could set my mind to," Polk said.

She said being a nurse is a stepping-stone to medical school. Polk said being an Army nurse gives her more experience by dealing with unusual diseases and treating a greater amount of patients. Along with that advantage, she is hopeful the Army will financially support her medical schooling.

For Puerto Rico native Huertas, opportunities and advancement in the Army attracted her to the ROTC program at Florida State University.

"I talked to a lot of nurses in the military and they said the civilian world was completely different. The Army has more discipline, camaraderie and opportunities for nurses," Huertas said.

She said though it was challenging being in the nursing and ROTC program, it taught her to work under pressure.

The lieutenants agree that choosing the ROTC

path provided a college career much more diverse than the average co-ed. The three say they also have more doors opening because of their involvement in Army ROTC. Polk said that cadets should consider the military and all its great benefits.

"They should consider that the military is a big family. It has good aspects if you're up to the challenge and want something different," she said.

# Cadet follows in family tradition; prepares for leadership

BY LINDSAY SAINLAR  
Staff writer

Standing 5'9" at 129 pounds, Cadet Brian Westerman, 3/C1/1-46, Middle Tennessee State University, blends in effortlessly with the crowd of camouflaged cadets. But, there is more to him than his thin frame lets poke through.

Westerman has come a long way since sweeping floors at the Wesley Foundation on his college campus where he practices Methodism. After growing up Catholic, he found himself at Wesley studying the Methodist religion, which he describes as the most accepting and open dogma he's come across in the Middle Tennessee area.

Born in Lynchburg, Va., Westerman ventured to MTSU in Murfreesboro, a city with two Super Walmarts, to pursue an education in the music recording industry. He hopes to produce music for bands like Metallica or Aerosmith one day and hopefully own his own studio.

He said going the next four weeks without music will be one of the most challenging aspects of his LTC experience.

Musically inclined by nature, Westerman jokingly refers to himself as "the master of guitars." In addition to the guitar, he can play the bass guitar, the drums and he sings for the Wesley Foundation choir.

Fate, with direction from his father, Lt. Col. Kurt Westerman, has led him two and a half hours north of Murfreesboro for the Leader's Training Course.

Coming from a military family, discipline and the ability to adapt to new surroundings have been instilled in him and has better



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

Brian Westerman, 3/C/1-46 of Middle Tennessee State University, confirms he's ready to proceed down the rappel tower. Westerman's father is serving in Iraq.

prepared him for his stay at Fort Knox. His father was deployed to Iraq in April with a Nuclear Disable Weapons Team. "That's all we know about him," Brian said about his father, whose mission in Iraq is classified.

He said he's not particularly worried about his father, even though Kurt isn't allowed to share information.

"We were nervous at first, but he seems to be holding his own," he said. "With him being a lieutenant colonel, I know they'll take care of him."

He said the military legacy in the Westerman family goes back further than his father. His grandfather, who died of lung cancer, was a beach-hopper during WWII and also fought in the Korean War. Although his grandfather didn't storm the beaches at Normandy, Westerman said the first 30 minutes of "Saving Private Ryan" tends to hit a little closer to home. He said it can bring him to tears instantly.

Emotions running high, Brian said his enrollment in LTC has made his father proud.

"Now all of a sudden I'm following in his footsteps," Brian said.

His previous training for LTC included a military science class and a Spring FTX, where he participated in paintball wearing the BDU's that his father outgrew and shot an M16 using real ammunition for the first time.

"I was scared out of my mind," Brian said. "I still didn't realize why I was holding a weapon and shooting it."

He said the first time he pulled the trigger the gun kicked back and popped him in his nose. "It was a lot louder than I expected it to be."

Brian's leadership skills don't just apply to his platoon. He is also the recruitment chair for the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity that was recently introduced to MTSU's campus.

He said he and his brothers could relate to the new movie "Old School" in the sense of forming rules and policies for their social fraternity to abide by, but not in the sense of binge drinking and throwing crazy parties.

"We try to be the gentlemen," he said. "And we're the only ones (fraternity) not in trouble."

His leadership potential shines through his experience from being on his fraternity's intramural volleyball team.

"I'm the guy who dives for the team, sacrificing my body in the sand," Westerman laughed.

Westerman said he is confident that he will be able to complete the tasks scheduled during LTC, and is looking forward to utilizing his leadership potential with the rest of his platoon.

If things go awry, Westerman said he has a backup plan for life.

"I'd love to be a beach bum," Westerman said, "If all else fails, I'll move to the beach."



# Friendship in A-1-46 discovered by name

BY GINA VAILE  
Assistant editor

When Natasja Allen arrived at Louisville International Airport, she was looking forward to 28 days of hard work and leadership training. Then, she reported in to find her name misspelled and the wrong social security number on the roll call sheet.

"When I got here I was thinking, 'great, now they've got the wrong social security number and I'll have to fill out all the paperwork again,'" Natasja, of University of Hawaii, Manoa said.

A little while later, Natasha Allen, of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks also arrived at Louisville International.

"I looked down to sign the paper and I noticed they spelled my name wrong," Natasha said. "I thought, 'how could they spell my name with a 'j'?"

It wasn't until the two cadets arrived at Fort Knox for the Leader's Training Course that they found each other. Two girls, with the same name — from the last two states added to the union and both born in the month of March.

"I've never met another Natasha before, much less a Natasha Allen," Natasha said.

Both cadets were put in the Alpha Company third platoon, fourth squad, and say they absolutely love their platoon.

"We've got each other's back," Natasja said, referring to her new friend and the rest of the cadets in her platoon. "We all have the same mentality that we have a job to do, and we have to get it done."

The two cadets share a bunk in the Alpha



Michelle Lohmann/Leader

Natasha Allen and Natasja Allen not only have the same name, but share the same interests.

Company barracks and use their time in the barracks to refresh each other on what was learned throughout the day.

"Last night we were practicing cadences before we went to bed," Natasha said.

The two cadets have agreed to make sure each other is pushed and motivated each day of the 28-day training. The two have found their common interests are something they can talk about when the work for the day is over.

Both cadets share an interest in military movies, a hobby that most friends don't understand.

"All my friends want to watch love stories or comedies and I like the action and gore of military movies," Natasha said.

The two cadets are also used to moving and traveling the globe, something that comes easy for the two daughters of military men. Natasja's father is retired Army and Natasha's father is in the Air Force, stationed in Alaska. Making the decision to join the military as a career is something both cadets say came easy.

"I was a very patriotic little girl," Natasja said, noting that her dad's military background helped in her decision to join the ROTC program at her college.

Natasha said her father always reminded her

that the ROTC program would be worth looking in to when choosing a college and making a career choice.

"I didn't really want to (join) until now," Natasha said. "My parents are both really supportive."

The two cadets also share the same interest in activities, music and food. Both enjoy sleeping and relaxing on weekends and listening to country music.

Both cadets have high expectations of LTC and are looking forward to many of the physical and mental challenges of the summer course. The two enjoy PT workouts and hope to push and motivate each other in the many obstacles and challenges this summer.

"I've felt incompetent in my battalion," Natasja said. "I'm a perfectionist and I want to know everything and take new confidence and leadership back to my battalion."

"I know a lot more now after this first week than after a whole year at my battalion," she said.

Now, the two cadets hope to learn more about each other over the next four weeks during the down time in the barracks and in the field. Not only will the two graduate from LTC with leadership skills, but a friendship that will last a lifetime.

## Cadets get squared away thanks to LNO office

BY LINDSAY SAINLAR  
Staff writer

The piles of paperwork it takes to get a cadet ready for the Leader's Training Course or any other military training must remain in constant order.

When a cadet is missing his documents or needs information relayed back to his school or family, a U.S. Army Liaison Officer is in charge of making sure things are squared away.

In layman's terms, a LNO is a go-between for a cadet's college and the Army.

There are four LNO's stationed at building 7014 working to make the transition for cadet's less

hectic. All cadets from the Eastern region who come across any problems should report to Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Lovins from Marshall University and all cadet's from the Western region should seek the guidance of Sgt. 1st Class Kirk Parker of Texas A&M Corpus Christi. They can both be reached at (502) 624-5959.

Lt. Col. Daniel Dillow from the New Mexico Military Institute is the chief LNO and can be reached at (502) 624-5897. Staff Sgt. Brenda Williams from the University of Arkansas is the administrative NCO for the LNO office and she can be reached at (502) 624-7453.

However, it's not just paperwork these officers are responsible for. The LNO's also serve as counselors.

Dillow said his principle objective as an Army counselor is to coax cadets through their homesickness, frustrations or whatever seems to be troubling them.

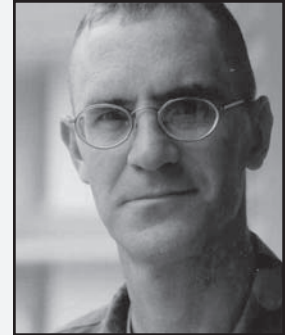
Each of the LNO's believe that LTC is a great opportunity for the fledgling Army leaders of tomorrow.

Williams compared LTC to a summer camp in which the cadets' get paid to learn new things, and said she is more than willing to help alleviate any apprehensive feelings the cadets' may have about their stay at Fort Knox.

"If they need any assistance," Williams said, "I'll be there to give them that assistance."

Parker advises the cadets' to stay positive and try to get everything they can out of their LTC experience.

"Make it a game," Parker said. "Have fun."



Lt. Col.  
Daniel Dillow



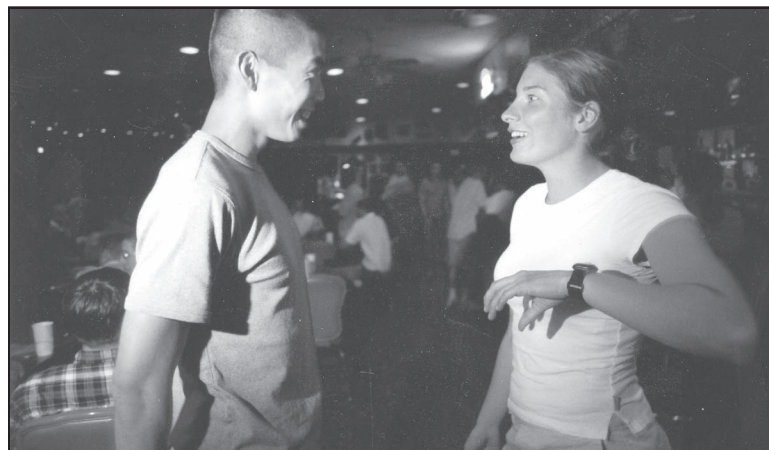
Sgt. 1st Class  
Kirk Parker

## Steppin' to the beat of a different tune

After three days of learning the ropes, listening to commands and getting adjusted to the military way of life, LTC cadets were granted at least one night out of uniform and back in civilian dress to move to a more comfortable beat ... music.

Cadets from each company packed the Leader's Club, enjoying party food and a fun atmosphere before diving back in to the cadet's life.

Cadets used the social gatherings as a way to bond with platoon and company comrades and to relax before three more weeks of challenges and training.



**Above:** Candice Still, 2/E/1-46 from Central Washington University meets platoon member Nick Kong, 2/E/1-46 from Haverford College.

**Right:** Tamica Brock, 2/E/1-46 from University of Mississippi at Rolla dances on the stage.



Photos by Amber Sigman/Leader



# Thunderous drill

## Inside the LTC drill sergeants

BY NICHOLAS STOUT  
Staff writer

Most people have heard of Drill Sgt. Hartman of “Full Metal Jacket” and the terror he brought into the barracks. Or Drill Sgt. Hulka of Stripes and the tough time he gave his men. Despite the Hollywood slant, nothing could be further from the truth for the cadets of LTC.

“Cadets have heard the war stories and seen the movies and they come in here terrified of us,” said Staff Sgt. Jeffery Mullins, a drill sergeant for A/1-46. “What we are here to do is assist in the training, help the cadets get through the cycle and make this as fun and painless as possible.”

“I was seriously terrified,” said Jessica Ostrand, 2/A/1-46, Michigan State University. “I thought they were going to treat us like they did soldiers—screaming in our faces and hitting us on the head with their hats.”

Staff Sgt. Vance Flowers, a drill sergeant for A/1-46, said television has been a drill sergeant’s greatest injustice. He said they have dealt with the unfair stereotype that drill sergeants are these “mindless robots” that care about nothing.

“People view drill sergeants as maniacs who do nothing but curse, throw things and hit people,” he said. “In reality it’s not like that—we are the people who take care of the ‘shock-effect.’”

The drill sergeants at LTC have a simple, primary purpose: to enforce the standard of the Army. Staff Sgt. Lyle Harris, a drill sergeant for C/1-46, said that in anything cadets or privates do, they maintain a proper and disciplined military bearing.

“Everything we do has a task, purpose and set conditions,” he said. “There is a certain level that we (the drill sergeants) want everything to be achieved at and we are here to enforce that.”

With the enforcement of the standard, drill sergeants also want the cadets to enjoy their time here at LTC.

“We try to create an eagerness in the cadets and get them excited about what they are doing,” Mullins said. “We want this to be something cadets can look back at and be proud of doing.”

After only a few days of training and contact with the drill sergeants, cadets were surprised, a little relieved and very excited.

“I admire these guys,” said Andrew Feret, 1/A/1-46, Radford University. “Drill sergeants are superior soldiers and they lead by example.”

Training cadets as opposed to privates has its differences, according to Mullins.

“Drill sergeants are to maintain a certain level of sternness with privates—that isn’t our main focus with cadets,” Mullins said. “We are not trying to turn civilians into soldiers here—we just want to give cadets a little taste of what the Army is really like.”

Staff Sgt. Febulette Richmond C/1-46, a drill sergeant from Fort Jackson, SC, said that there is a significant difference in teaching the basics of the Army to cadets as opposed to privates.

“What we do with enlisted soldiers is break them completely down and build them back up,” she said. “With cadets we teach them the basics and pretty much point them in the right direction.”

According to Staff Sgt. Jennifer Callicutt A/1-46, another drill sergeant from Fort Jackson, SC, drill sergeants pretty much act more as mentors and coaches than drill sergeants at LTC.

“We are kind of taking a step back as drill sergeants and playing the coach for cadets,” she said. “We aren’t here to scream so much as teach cadets and help them understand the concepts of everything.”

### Drill Sergeant Training

Often times soldiers, cadets and civilians don’t take the time to think about how hard it is to become a drill sergeant.

Mullins who has been a drill sergeant for more than one year said that soldiers are selected for drill sergeant school based on their record in the Army, their past performance and interviews with commanding officers. After record processing, drill sergeants head to a nine-week school, which basically a repeat of basic training with a little more emphasis on leadership and drill instruction.

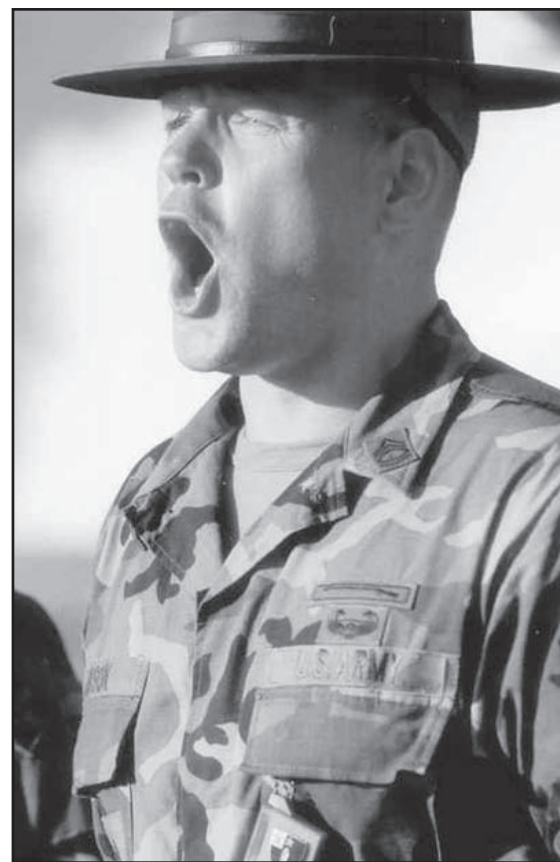
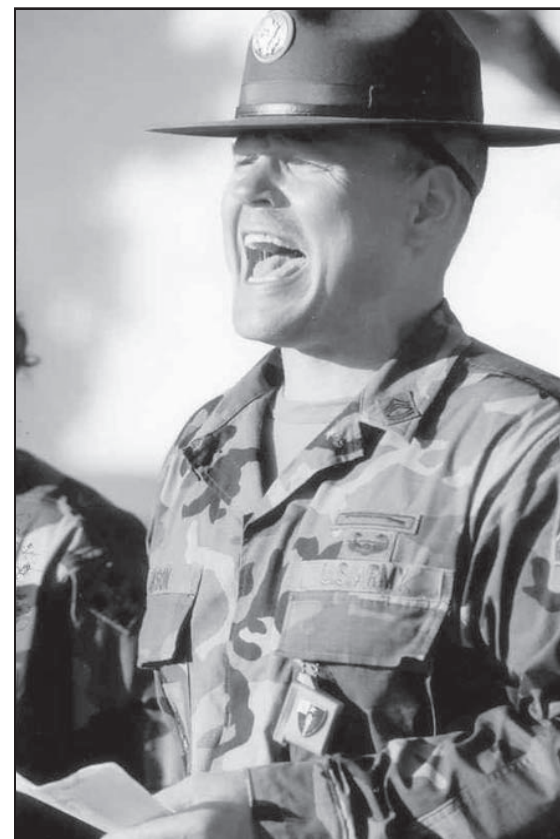
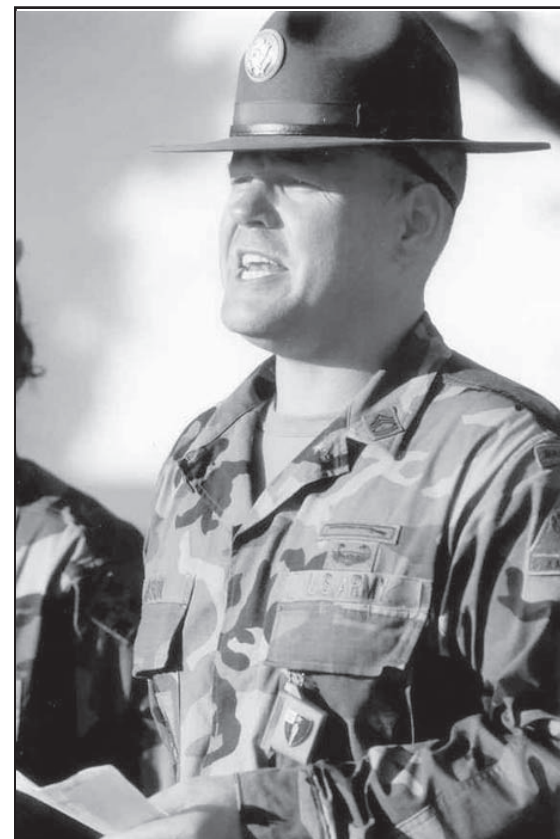
“It is basically going back to where you came from,” he said.

Flowers said that being a drill sergeant has been a very rewarding and challenging experience. With a wife and two sons at home, he said drill sergeants will learn to be masters of their time and resources.

“It’s a very time demanding job,” he said. “This job really helps you to develop professionally, you get better at time management and your leadership skills improve so much.”

Harris said from 4:45a.m. to 10:00p.m., a drill sergeant rises and falls with the soldiers they train.

“It’s a very rewarding job,” he said. “Pretty much everyone in the Army can remember the drill sergeants that taught them and 99.9 percent of soldiers will uphold the footprints that the drill sergeants set before them.”



**Far Right:** Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Larson, a Charlie Company Drill Sgt., calls out names to receive Army Values Tags.

**Above:** Staff Sgt. Ernest Miller assists Tayla Taylor, 2/C/1-46, of Florida A&M University, with her salute during a Drill & Ceremony exercise.

**Right:** Sgt. 1st Class Ernest McGee helps Jacob Marshall 3/A/1-46 of Auburn University.